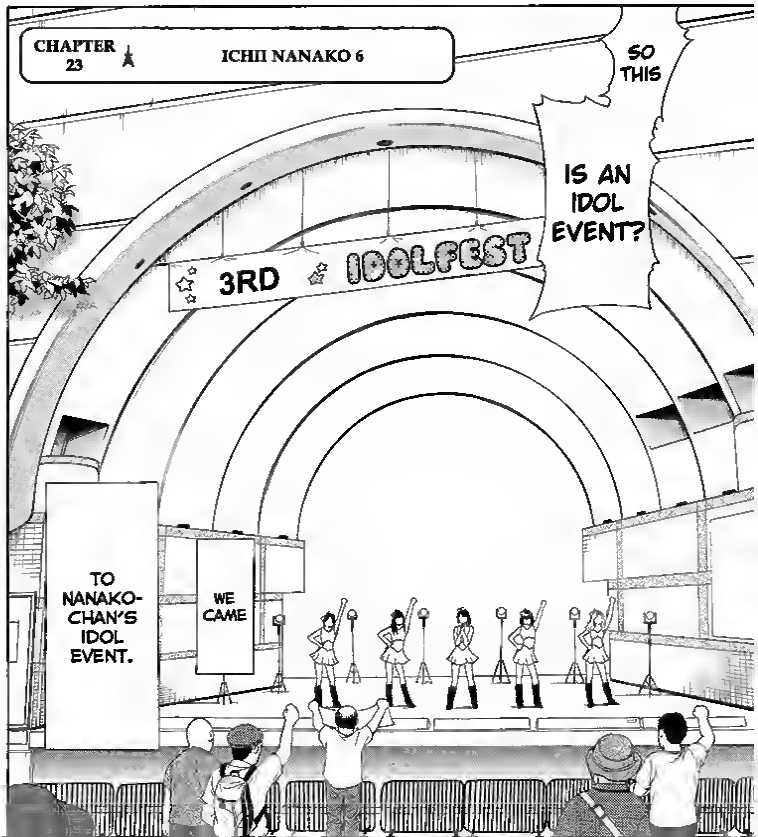
CH. 23
明治神宮前駅
Meijijingumae Sta.
520m
原宿駅
Harajuku Sta.
620m
代々木公園駅
Yoyogikoen Sta.

THIS IS QUITE A CROWD.
YEAH, I KNOW.

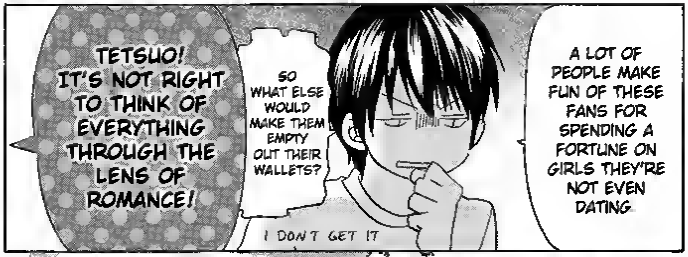
AND I'VE NEVER SEEN THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE BEFORE.
WELL THERE ARE MORE GIRLS HERE THAN I WOULD'VE IMAGINED
IN ANY CASE, THIS IS NOT A MIX I'D EVER RUN ACROSS.

I BELIEVE THAT MAY BE THE CASE
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
WILL WE BE THE ONES OUT OF PLACE?
ドキ


CHAPTER 23
ICHII NANAKO 6
SO THIS IS AN IDOL EVENT?
3RD IDOLFEST
TO NANAKO-CHAN'S IDOL EVENT.
WE CAME

AH
GEEZ, THERE YOU GO AGAIN
HEY ISN'T THAT NANAKO?
SHE WAS DOING ROADSIDE CONCERTS JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND NOW SHE'LL BE ON THAT STAGE
YEAH, AND THERE'S A BUNCH OF OTHER ACTS.
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
NANAKO-CHAN'S UNBELIEV-ABLE
AHHH!
YOU REALLY CAME!
TEC-CHAN!
BOSS!
CAN BADGES ¥500
WHAT ARE YOU SELL-ING?
BESIDES, WE'RE NOT UP YET.
SO WE HAVE TO DO THIS
WE'RE NOT THAT POPULAR YET.
MUNCH MUNCH
SO YOU "IDOLS" ARE STUCK IN THE SALES BOOTH?

AND STICKERS
T-SHIRTS
BADGES
OUR MERCHANDISE.
WHA?!
REALLY?!
WE'LL TAKE IT.
OKAY
...THAT'S ONE HELL OF A DESIGN.
IT'S TOTALLY CUTE!
WELL
EVERYONE HERE IS PRACTICALLY COVERED IN MERCH
BET THOSE COST A LOT OF MONEY TOO
SHE NEEDS US.
IS... THAT SO?
MERCHANDISE IS A KEY SOURCE OF REVENUE!
THIS IS WHAT WE GOTTA DO IN ORDER TO SUPPORT HER!


A LOT OF PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF THESE FANS FOR SPENDING A FORTUNE ON GIRLS THEY'RE NOT EVEN DATING.
I DON'T GET IT
SO WHAT ELSE WOULD MAKE THEM EMPTY OUT THEIR WALLETS?
TETSUO! IT'S NOT RIGHT TO THINK OF EVERYTHING THROUGH THE LENS OF ROMANCE!

AH!
THAT VOICE
IT IS YOU
MR. SWIM-SUIT...
WILL YOU NOT BUY MY GOODS AS WELL?
YOU CAN GET ONE SCHOOL SWIMSUIT T-SHIRT FOR 5,000 YEN!
AND A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT SMARTPHONE CASE FOR 4,000 YEN!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
ANYWAY, MR. SWIM-SUIT
3RD IDOLFEST
AND THERE'S A WHOLE LOT MORE!
TOWEL 3,500 YEN
THAT'S TOO PRICEY
AND THIS CASE COVERS UP THE SCREEN.

AS AN IDOL?
EHHH
I, TOO, WILL APPEAR IN THIS EVENT!
AS AN IDOL!
すぱー
I AM A POE-DOL WHO ALSO WRITES POETRY!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE A POET.
BUT YOU HAVE YET TO FIND THE THING YOU LOVE, CORRECT?
IT'S NICE HOW YOU LOVE SO MANY THINGS.
EH HEH
I ALSO LOVE IDOLS, SO I WANTED TO TRY IT OUT.
YOU ARE JUST UNABLE TO SEE IT.
WRONG!
TO SAY THAT I HAVE NOTH-ING?
SO YOU GAVE ME A BLANK SIGNBOARD

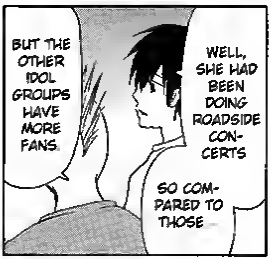
I WRITE HOPES AND DREAMS ON THOSE SIGNATURE BOARDS.
HOWEVER, YOU ARE UNABLE TO SEE YOUR OWN SELF
THEREFORE, YOU CANNOT SEE YOUR HOPES
I GUESS I'M JUST A FAILURE THEN
OH SO YOU ARE AWARE
THAT YOU'RE A FAIL-URE.
YES YOU ARE INDEED A FAILURE!
YOU ARE TETSUO THE FAILURE FACE! A FAILURE AMONG FAILURES!
BUT IF YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH OF A FAILURE YOU ARE
THEN YOU WILL SEE WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.
...
HEY!
NANAKO'S GROUP IS NEXT!
WHAT ?!
I WILL GO SEE ECLAIR, FOR I AM A FAN!
TETSUO! YOU MUST WATCH THEM CLOSELY!
SURE

HELLO!
THIS IS ECLAIR!
WOW! SHE ACTUALLY MADE IT TO A HUGE STAGE!
エクレア
エクレア

TOO BAD
THERE'S NOT MUCH OF A CROWD

BUT LOOK AT THAT SMILE!

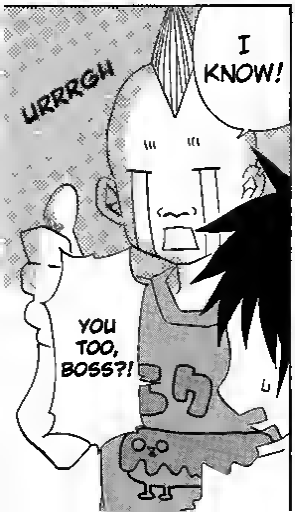
HISAYO'S WAY CUTER, ANYWAY.
THEY BETTER NOT TOUCH HIM!
HISAYO
HISAYO
TALK ABOUT PRESSURE
SHE'LL BE PERFORMING BEFORE PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HER.


BUT THE OTHER IDOL GROUPS HAVE MORE FANS.
WELL, SHE HAD BEEN DOING ROADSIDE CONCERTS
SO COMPARED TO THOSE

YES, IDOLS ARE SUPPOSED TO SMILE.
BUT
NO NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRL CAN DO THAT WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT.

THAT GIRL
IF SHE DOESN'T CHANGE
KNOWS SHE'LL BE STUCK IN A DEAD END
SIR
LET'S MOVE CLOSER TO THE FRONT.
YEAH
TO THE FRONT ROW!

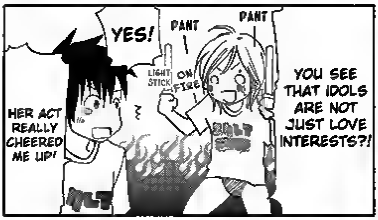
NANA-
KOOO!

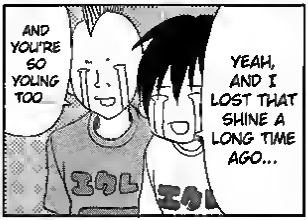

URRGH
I KNOW!
YOU TOO, BOSS?!

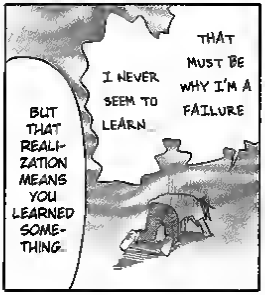
I THINK I'M ABOUT TO CRY

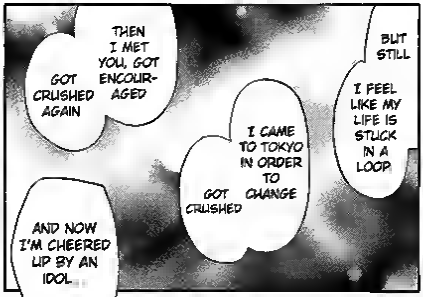
...
HOLY COW
NANAKO-CHAN

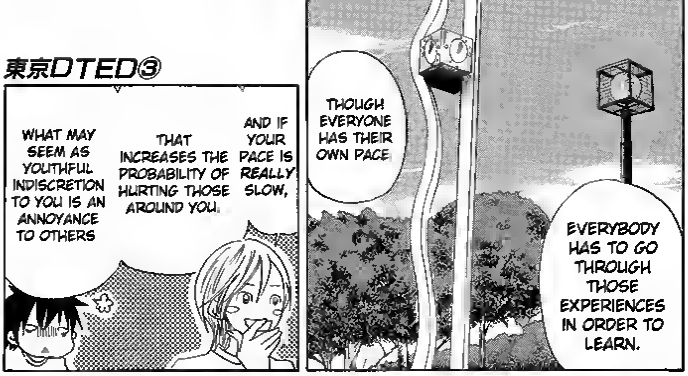
SHE POSSESSES THAT— SOMETHING... THAT GLOW...
THAT I MAY HAVE HAD ONCE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT THERE WITHIN HER.

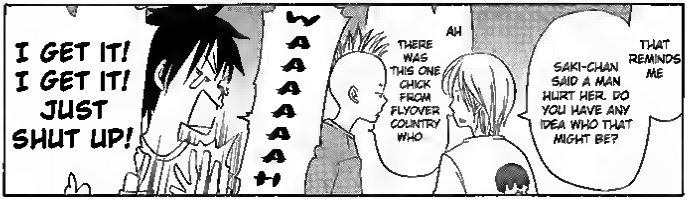

YES!
PANT
PANT
LIGHT STICK
OH FIRE
HER ACT REALLY CHEERED ME UP!
YOU SEE THAT IDOLS ARE NOT JUST LOVE INTERESTS?!


AND YOU'RE SO YOUNG TOO...
YEAH, AND I LOST THAT SHINE A LONG TIME AGO...


THAT MUST BE WHY I'M A FAILURE
I NEVER SEEM TO LEARN...
BUT THAT REALIZATION MEANS YOU LEARNED SOMETHING.

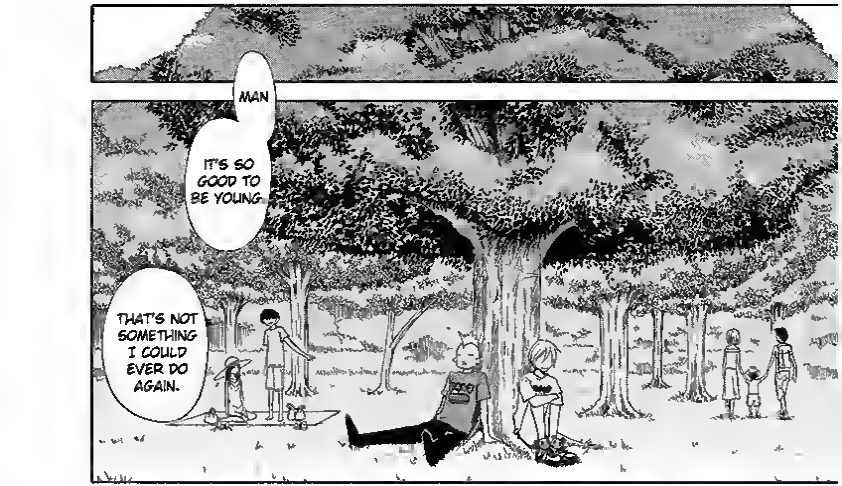

BUT STILL I FEEL LIKE MY LIFE IS STUCK IN A LOOP.
I CAME TO TOKYO IN ORDER TO CHANGE
GOT CRUSHED
THEN I MET YOU, GOT ENCOURAGED
GOT CRUSHED AGAIN
AND NOW I'M CHEERED UP BY AN IDOL...


EVERYBODY HAS TO GO THROUGH THOSE EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO LEARN.
THOUGH EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PACE
AND IF YOUR PACE IS REALLY SLOW,
THAT INCREASES THE PROBABILITY OF HURTING THOSE AROUND YOU.
WHAT MAY SEEM AS YOUTHFUL INDISCRETION TO YOU IS AN ANNOYANCE TO OTHERS


I GET IT! I GET IT! JUST SHUT UP!
WAAAAAAH!
AH
THERE WAS THIS ONE CHICK FROM FLYOVER COUNTRY WHO
SAKI-CHAN SAID A MAN HURT HER. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THAT MIGHT BE?
THAT REMINDS ME

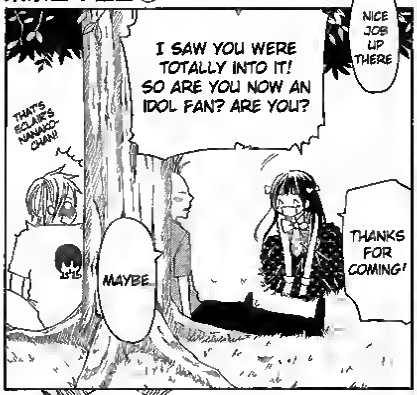
I WILL CHANGE
AND I WILL GROW.
TET-SUO
IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO WANT TO WRITE SOME-THING
JUST HAVING THAT INTENTION WILL LEAVE THAT SIGNA-TURE BOARD BLANK

WHAT YOU NEED
IS TO TAKE ACTION, LIFT THE PEN, AND WRITE.


MAN
IT'S SO GOOD TO BE YOUNG
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I COULD EVER DO AGAIN.

BUT YOU'RE YOUNG YOURSELF.
NO WAY, I'M ALREADY 26.
SEE?
YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN ME.
EH?
YOUNGER THAN YOU??
BOSS!
EHH HH?

THERE YOU ARE!


NICE JOB UP THERE
I SAW YOU WERE TOTALLY INTO IT! SO ARE YOU NOW AN IDOL FAN? ARE YOU?
THAT'S ECLAIR'S NANAKO-CHAN!
THANKS FOR COMING!
MAYBE.

OKAY, DID YOU COME HERE TO FIGHT ME?
THE THOUGHT ACTUALLY DISGUSTS ME...

HE LEFT.
...
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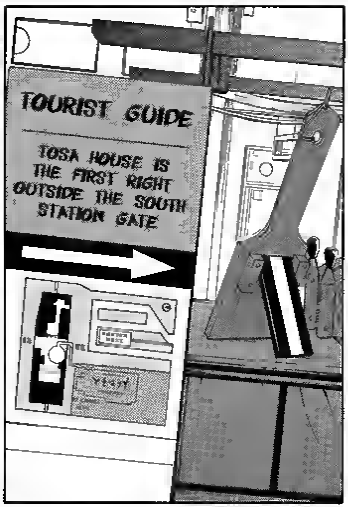
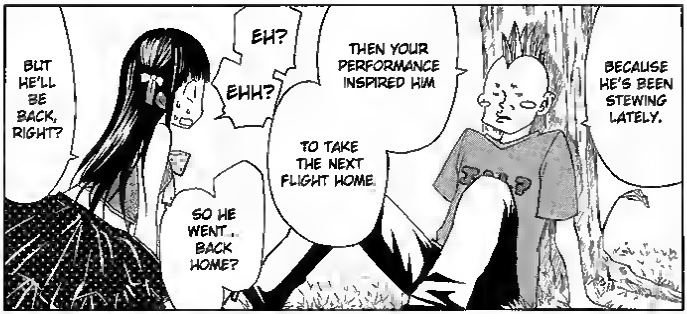
WHERE'S TECCHAN?
NO
TO THANK YOU

FOR KOCHI.
KOCHI RYOMA AIRPORT

WHOA
WHATTA SCOR-CHER.


TOURIST GUIDE
TOSA HOUSE IS THE FIRST RIGHT OUTSIDE THE SOUTH STATION GATE

WHY?!
BUT IT HASN'T BEEN ANY TYPE OF WHILE SINCE I LEFT HOME.
高知駅 KO STATION
エクレア


BUT HE'LL BE BACK, RIGHT?
EH?
EHH?
THEN YOUR PERFORMANCE INSPIRED HIM
TO TAKE THE NEXT FLIGHT HOME.
SO HE WENT.. BACK HOME?
BECAUSE HE'S BEEN STEWING LATELY.

!?
WHO KNOWS.

MAN I'M A LOSER.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE BACK AFTER THREE LOUSY MONTHS.

東京DTED

I WANT TO
FORGET
ABOUT
YOU

THE LAST OF THE SONGS THAT CARRIED ME BUT DID NOT APPEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CHAPTER.

GOLDEN BOMBER'S "DAKARA BYE BYE" AND "TIME MACHINE GA HOSHII YO"

THEIR FEM LYRICS AND CATCHY MELODIES ARE SIMPLY WONDERFUL.
I HEARD BOTH SONGS ON THEIR KYAN HAGE TOUR, AND IT WAS
TOTALLY AWESOME.